

Westford Council on Aging

Cameron Senior Center 20 Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 2223 Westford, MA 01886-5323

(978) 692-5523 Fax: (978) 392-4992

INTRODUCING WRAP (WESTFORD RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) TO THE WESTFORD COMMUNITY

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED NOW!

WRAP is a 3-year rental assistance program, scheduled to start December 1st 2020. The goal of the program is to assist **5 households** who are renting or plan to rent qualifying housing units in **Westford**. Qualifying households must be at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the Greater Lowell area (1person-\$37,800, 2person-\$43,200, 3person-\$48,600, 4person-\$54,000, 5person-\$58,350), have less than \$25,000 in assets, and must be currently spending more than 30% of gross household monthly income on rental housing costs (including eligible utilities). The program is not available to households already receiving government-funded rental assistance-such as Section 8 or MRVP or state or federally subsidized housing.

WRAP aims to assist the most cost burdened renters in Westford by offering a housing subsidy paid directly to their landlord, who must agree to accept WRAP payments directly. The program can subsidize **up to \$500** of the household's rent payment monthly, with the expectation that the household will not pay more than 30% of their income toward rent. During the time that households are participating in the program and receiving funding, recipients must agree to work with the Town Social Worker to develop a Housing Stabilization Plan to work toward a sustainable long-term housing situation. Participation in the program can be renewed yearly for a maximum of three years provided that all program financial criteria is continuing to be met and the household is working on mutually agreed upon goals with the Town Social Worker. For renewal consideration, participating households must submit a new application annually.

Households must complete a lottery application the first year of the program. Information requests and questions should be directed to Westford Housing Authority by calling 978-692-6011. Applications will be available through the Westford Council on Aging at 978-399-2325, Westford Housing Authority by calling 978-692-6011, both departments web pages, and are printable from the Town of Westford website. Applications are due no later than Friday, October 30th to Westford Housing Authority, 65 Tadmuck Rd., Westford, MA 01886. Application assistance, accommodation for disabilities, and assistance for applicants with limited English proficiency is available as needed through Alison Christopher. Lottery: Wednesday, November 11th at 4:10 PM (if needed due to number of tied qualifying applicants after preferences are verified) at COA Board Meeting-Cameron Senior Center. All are welcome to attend.